

McMurray, Forrest

From: Hupp, Millan
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 4:02 PM
To: Greenwalt, Sarah; Ferguson, Lincoln; Ford, Hayley; McMurray, Forrest
Subject: FW: EPA, Israeli Company Partner On 'Water From Air' Techq

Probably good to include in his binder.

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From: Yehuda Kaploun [mailto:yehudak@watergenusa.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: EPA, Israeli Company Partner On 'Water From Air' Techq

<https://www.forbes.com/sites>

EPA, Israeli Company Partner On 'Water From Air' Tech

Jeff Kart Apr 13, 2018 @ 04:15 PM



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There's humidity hanging out there in the air. A company called Water-Gen has developed a generator that pulls water vapor from the air to harvest drinking water.

It's not as pie in the sky as you might think. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Water-Gen, based in Israel.

These agreements allow private companies to benefit from federal expertise, the Washington Examiner reports. The deal is to develop advanced mobile water generators that basically make water from thin air.

Or, as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt puts it: "... to advance atmospheric water generators as a viable technology for dramatically improving access to potable water during shortages or contamination events, like natural disasters or infrastructure issues."

The technology has been around for a while. Back in 2014, the company's generators were touted for uses by the military in Israel and elsewhere, with a note that Water-Gen's technology was unique because of its efficiency.

How does it work? It pulls water from the air much like an air conditioner, only using less energy.



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Water-Gen calls its technology GENius, and dubs it the most energy-efficient-water-from-air module of its kind. It can reportedly generate water for about 2 cents a liter, using 300 watt-hours of energy. There's almost four liters in a gallon, for about 8 cents.

Water-Gen is just one of more than 50 companies that EPA has inked agreements with under the Federal Technology Transfer Act. The agreement

with Water-Gen is part of an EPA initiative to "develop relationships that allow us to test and evaluate new technologies, like the atmospheric water generators, to ensure the U.S. can employ this type of technology and provide its citizens with the highest quality air and water."

A brochure on Water-Gen's atmospheric water generators has more details, describing large-scale units as "a plug-and-drink solution" for schools, hospitals, commercial and residential buildings and more, with the ability to generate more than 5,000 liters of clean fresh water every day.

Another interesting note: the units are built to account for bad air quality, something you might expect after events that knock out drinking water infrastructure, like last year's hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Texas. The units include air filtration and a built-in water reservoir and treatment facility. People around the world hunt for water every day, hurricane or not, and Water-Gen says its devices can potentially service millions around the world.

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